

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 29, 31 and 33 are pending.

Claims 23-28, 30 and 32-39 have been withdrawn.

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 29, 31 and 33 stand rejected.

Claims 29, 31, and 33 have been amended.

Claims 40-42 have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 29, 31 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,728,685 issued to Ahluwalia (hereinafter “*Ahluwalia*”). In view of the amendments and remarks contained in this response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Ahluwalia relates to “online ordering and tracking.” *Ahluwalia*, Abstract. More specifically, *Ahluwalia* allows a customer using a web-based system to search for a vehicle in inventory that satisfies user specified search criteria. *Ahluwalia* teaches that “if the search does not yield a vehicle satisfying the search criteria, then a customer may search for near-match vehicles or place a custom order for the desired vehicle.” *Id.*, col. 7, lines 9-12. Referring to Fig. 4A, *Ahluwalia* additionally teaches that “[i]f no vehicle matching the criteria is located, then near matches are searched in inventory database 322 if so instructed by the consumer, as shown in block 416.” *Id.*, col. 9, lines 46-49.

Although *Ahluwalia* teaches that a consumer can instruct the system search for near matches, *Ahluwalia* fails to teach or suggest “receiving (“receive” Claims 31 and 33”) an auto-generate request, separate from the received data, from the first computer system to automatically generate a second product configuration that is comparable to the first product configuration,” wherein the auto-generate request includes data representing criteria to establish a basis for comparability between the first product configuration and the second product

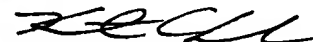
configuration [and] processing (“process” Claims 31 and 33”) the auto-generate request with the second computer system to automatically generate the second product configuration in accordance with the criteria to establish a basis for comparability between the first product configuration and the second product configuration” as required by Claims 29, 31, and 33. (emphasis added).

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claims 29, 31, and 33. Applicants also respectfully submit that Claims directly or indirectly dependent upon Claims 29, 31, and 33 are allowable for at least the same reason as the independent claim upon which each depends.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 20, 2006.



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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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